



ROCK -N- ROSE



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VOLUME 33

TYLER, TEXAS ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2007

Coming Shows, 2007

September 21-23

Humble, TX

Houston Gem & Mineral Society. www.hgms.org

September 28-30

Llano, TX

Golden Gem Rendezvous & Knap -In

October 13-14

Dallas, TX

North Texas Earth Science Association. n2theis@gmail.com

October 13-14

Temple, TX

Tri-city Gem & Min. Soc. Mayborn Convention Center

October 19-21

Victoria, TX

Victoria Gem & Min. Soc. Victoria Convention Center

FIELD TRIP INFO

Please see page 3 for more details

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As our President's Message was not available at the time of printing I thought you might enjoy the gem: You Might Be a Geologist If. BTW, if anyone has a current number or contact info for our new president please let me know as the number I have is not in service. Thanks, the Editor

You Might Be a Geologist If:

1. You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
2. Your rock collection weighs more than you do.
3. Your rock garden is located inside your house.
4. You can pronounce the word "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
5. You don't think of "cleavage" the same way everyone else does.
6. You have even uttered the phrase "have you tried licking it" with no sexual connotation involved.
7. You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attractions.
8. You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in drive-way gravel.
9. You're planning on using a pick and shovel while you're on vacation.
10. Your internet home page has pictures of your rocks.
11. You will walk across eight lanes of freeway traffic to see if the outcrop on the other side of the highway is the same type rock as the side you're parked on.
12. You can point out where Tsumeb is on a world globe.
13. The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help you with your luggage.
14. You have even found yourself trying to explain to airport security that a rock hammer isn't really a weapon.
15. You never throw away anything.
16. You have even taken a 22-passenger van over "roads" that were really intended only for cattle.
17. You consider a "recent event" to be anything that has happened in the last hundred thousand years.
18. You have even had to respond to "yes" to the question, "What have you got in there, rocks?"

~From The Petrified Digest 08/04, via Rocket City Rock & Gems 07/04, Stone Age News 12/04



AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

On September 10, 2007 the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society meeting was called to order by President Jon Laverty at 7:00 pm in the new location, the Discovery Science Center in Tyler. Everyone enthusiastically thanked Don Campbell who was instrumental in securing the new meeting location. Guests recognized were Haley Cecil from Bullard, Linda Frank's grandson, Hunter, and Sharon Longacre who came with her husband, Eddie. New members Greg Sturrock and his mom were also recognized. All were welcomed. There was a motion by Sylvia Rainer, 2nd by Gene Goar, to accept the previous month's meetings as mailed. This passed. A financial report was read by President Laverty for Colleen Hayes in absentia. There was no old business.

Don Campbell gave the first report on the upcoming field trip to Oklahoma. He will lead the group on Friday's informative structural geology tour of the Arbuckle Mountains with some collecting. He had handouts available and discussed the various stops and itinerary. Gene Goar then passed out information on the Saturday & Sunday schedule for the trip which will include a mineralogy exhibit and a visit to the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. The group will go to the collecting site for barite rose on Lake Stanley Draper with an option to visit the barite rose museum and rock shop on Sunday.

Bob Jamison then briefly discussed the petrified wood field trip to the Jasper area on October 6th. We will meet at the Stump Restaurant at 8:00 a.m. to head out. There will be more details at the October meeting.

Under new business the October meeting will be our annual auction featuring the amazing Keith Harmon at the gavel. All members are encouraged to attend and bid even if they are unable to contribute an item. The club discussed officers for the upcoming year. The current officers presented a recommendation list for club consideration. They were: Rip Criss as president, Jon Laverty as vice president, Jerry Kitchens as Treasurer, and Becky Whisenant as secretary. There was a motion by Susan Burch, 2nd by Bob, to accept this slate of officers for the next year. This passed. Don then discussed the Boy Scout program on September 28th at the Discovery Science Center in which the club will participate as part of our agreement to be able to use the meeting room free of charge. Don asked for volunteers to help from 7 - 9 p.m. with a presentation on earth sciences to enable the scouts to receive a badge. Don then discussed the annual meeting of the South Central Federation which he attended in Arlington. Our club received a certificate for our donation to the federation scholarship fund. Susan B. also attended the federation meeting and discussed the editors' breakfast meeting. As a result, she is encouraging club members to write letters to vote on birthstone gems (details elsewhere in newsletter).

Gene recommended that the club target all scout troops in town for one of our planned kids' meetings in order to reach and motivate future rockhounds and potential club members. Everyone agreed this is a good strategy. President Jon then gave a quiz on diamonds at which, for some reason, the women excelled (especially Emily!). Door prizes were drawn and recipients were Penny Hawkins, Al McWilliams, Joellen Gay, Laura Wilson young member Skylar Hotaling, Laura (generously passing it to Mattie) and Euva Scott. Travis won the very popular biggie prize: the large and beautiful piece of petrified wood/coal replacement with quartz crystals, donated by Jon Laverty. Thanks, Jon.

The club broke for refreshments after which Don presented his program on the structural geology of the Arbuckle Mts. discussing the historical geologic activity of the area near Turner Falls off I-35, one of the many stops on the trip. He explained the fracturing and faulting that took place in that area during the Pennsylvanian period about 250 MYA. Scientists believe this to be a "spreading center", a rift center of tectonic plate activity called an Aulacogen. There is 30,000 ft. of sediment in a 15 mile wide basin right next to a huge mountain uplift only 5 miles away. So rhyolite from approximately 30,000 ft under the earth can be found on the surface only 5 - 7 miles away. Don discussed the amazing over-thrust, faulting and settling that resulted in the mountains as we know them today. He concluded the program with a few slides on the very successful Llano Uplift trip back in April. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Whisenant, secretary



OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM

Keith Harmon will be the auctioneer at our annual auction. Please, come and enjoy the show, bring your cash/check to bid on some great items, and bring some to donate. Many of the club members can't make it on the same field trips or go to the same rock shops that you can, so give them the chance to acquire those specimens they would not otherwise be able to. **This is one of the annual events that benefits our club, your participation is needed to make it a success. Have fun!!**



OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

October 6, Lake Sam Rayburn, petrified wood. Call Bob Jamison for details at 903-729-4633. This will be the last time collection is allowed on this property as it is changing hands. I've heard there are great specimens available, as small as you can find and as big as you can carry.



ALL SMILES!

At the August meeting Travis Phillips was the big winner of the mega door prize donated by Jon Lavery. (A piece of large and beautiful petrified wood/coal replacement with quartz crystals)



EDITOR'S NOTE

Our Club sent me to the annual Editor's Breakfast that kicked off the Gem and Mineral Convention in Arlington, Texas, on September 1, 2007. It was impossible not to get caught up in the excitement of so many members from different participating clubs getting award after award and trophy after trophy, so, I succumbed. Some of them joked that they had to go get wheel barrows to take their piles home. Since I still considered myself a fairly new editor when it came time to turn in the entries for these competitions, we did not win any of the awards or trophies. But, considering the fact that we have very qualified members, I feel we should widen out our activities to include items that could be sent in to the competition committee. You may not feel capable of writing something that would be awe inspiring, but that is not necessary. Keep in mind that one of the writers of an article that won was only 6 years old. The entries can be anything related to our hobby from informative and educational or even poetry. So get out those pen's and jot down a blurb on your most recent field trip or write something a little more lengthy about an aspect of the hobby that interests you. Even if it's not competition worthy, the other members will benefit by reading it in our newsletter. Also, I will be glad to aid any who would like to participate in the competition to be able to do so. That way you can come join me next year and take part in the excitement of winning, too.

Gemstones on U.S. Stamps

Also at the Editor's Breakfast it was brought to my attention that there is a unified attempt being made to petition the U.S. Government to have commemorative stamps issued with gemstones on them. It was my impression from what was said at the breakfast that this is already in progress, and that at least the birthstones were being considered. If you think this is a good idea, or have a suggestion in this area, please send your request to:

Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee,
Stamp Development, US Postal Service,
1735 North Lynn St, Room 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432.

It was stressed as important that the requests be individual and not a group petition which would only be counted as one entry. So please send in your input, be a part of a National decision.



Units of Measure

2,000 pounds of Chinese soup: Won ton.

8 nickels: 2 paradigms.

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter: Eskimo Pi.

Half of a large intestine: 1 semicolon.

1,000 aches: 1 megahurtz.

365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer because it's less filling: 1 lite year.

~From Larry McAuley, source unknown, via Stone Chipper 09/07



Golden-Gem Rendezvous & Knap-In

From September 28th through the 30th, Llano will host the 3rd annual Great State of Texas Gold Panning Championship in the Llano River in Badu Park. (Bob are you going???)

There will also be flint knapping, a metal detector competition, gem and jewelry booths, food, and music on both Saturday and Sunday. There is an evening mixer on set up night Friday with food and music. Period costumes are encouraged.

There are spaces available for dealers for gems and minerals, jewelry, flint knappers, and gold. Knappers and panners who don't need table space are welcome without space rent. 12'X12' spaces for sales ONLY are \$25. Demonstrations with sales or displays are \$10 for all three days. Camping and RV spaces are available. Inside spaces are limited and are 10'X10' for \$25, plus \$5 for electric.

For more information contact Frank Rowell or Tony Griffith, Llano Chamber of Commerce, 700 Bessemer, Llano, TX 78643. 325-247-5354, frank@llanochamber.com, llanoad@hotmail.com, llanochamber.com/rendezvous.html.

~from llanochamber.com, submitted by Gene Healy and others, September Stone Chipper



CLASSIFIEDS

Items For Sale:

Andrea Miller has lapidary slabs and rough available for sale. The following is a partial list of what is for sale:

SLABS: Black Jade, Chrysoprase, Amethyst Lace, Green Jade, Crazy Lace Agate, Plume Agate and much more. ROUGH: Rhodochrosite (very high quality), Lapis.

Please contact her at am39677@sbcglobal.net if you are interested.





Fall Rock Hunting at the Walker Ranch

The weather is getting cool again, and it's time to come back out to the Big Bend and go rock hunting! We've had enough rain to wash off lots of beautiful agate, and great finds are all over the place!

This year, in order to allow more time for the deer hunters, the fall rock hunting season will end on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14th. The ranch will reopen for rock hunting after the deer season closes in mid-December.

I'll be available to lead field trips Wednesdays through Sundays in September and the first half of October, so please e-mail me at agatehunter@sbcglobal.net, or call me at (432) 837-1026 (home) or (432) 837-2451 (Antelope Lodge). I look forward to hearing from y'all.

~Teri Smith, AGMS Club Member; Stone Chipper 09/07



Texas Faceters' Guild Symposium

The Texas Faceters' Guild will have their annual symposium on **October 6th & 7th**. The symposium will be held at the Austin Gem & Mineral Society Clubhouse. Cost for this two day event is \$30 for primary members. This includes programs and lunch for both days. Cost for second family member or spouse is \$10 and also includes all programs and lunch. On Saturday registration opens at 9:00 a.m. and the program gets underway at 9:30 a.m. On Sunday the programs begin at 10:00 a.m. The list of speakers and topics is dazzling! Here are a few of the topics for the two day symposium:

- Zane Hoffman on Concave Faceting Demonstration – (Hands on?)
- Scott Sucher on the Koh-I-Noor Diamond – Laser Scanning Techniques
- Art Kavan with his Monster Faceting Machine - Used for 10.2 kilo piece of quartz rough
- Ana Collins on the Characteristics of Texas Topaz – Mason County vs Brazilian
- Wing Evans with a Hands on Seminar

Demonstration of Determining Index of Refraction Also on tap for the symposium is a DVD on diamond mining in South Africa – Home of the Cullinan Diamond. See a replica of this mighty piece of rough. Informal cutting contest, "Square Dance Cut" competition and awarding of Creative Gems Gift Certificate! And of course everyone's favorite, SHOW AND TELL!

Contact Bob Lucas, 6745 Lendell Dr, San Antonio, TX 78249, 210-558-4547 blucas@world-net.net for Additional information, if needed.

~Susan Postlethwait, Wife of a TFG member, Stone Chipper 09/07





On a trip to the museum on the Baylor campus in Waco a couple of years ago, we were fascinated by the giant crystal clusters on display. Many of these come from Mexico and I've been curious about the conditions under which they could have formed. This abstract from the newsletter of the American Geological Society gives an interesting explanation for this phenomenon.

Marilyn Austin

Formation of Natural Gypsum Mega-crystals in Naica, Mexico

Juan Manuel García-Ruiz¹, Roberto Villasuso², Carlos Ayora³, Angels Canals⁴, and Fermín Otálora

Exploration in the Naica mine (Chihuahua, Mexico) recently unveiled several caves containing giant, faceted, and transparent single crystals of gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) as long as 11 m. These large crystals form at very low super saturation. The problem is to explain how proper geochemical conditions can be sustained for a long time without large fluctuations that would trigger substantial nucleation. Fluid inclusion analyses show that the crystals grew from low-salinity solutions at a temperature of $\approx 54^\circ\text{C}$, slightly below the one at which the solubility of anhydrite equals that of gypsum. Sulfur and oxygen isotopic compositions of gypsum crystals are compatible with growth from solutions resulting from dissolution of anhydrite previously precipitated during late hydrothermal mineralization, suggesting that these megacrystals formed by a self-feeding mechanism driven by a solution-mediated, anhydrite-gypsum phase transition. Nucleation kinetics calculations based on laboratory data show that this mechanism can account for the formation of these giant crystals, yet only when operating within the very narrow range of temperature identified by our fluid inclusion study. These singular conditions create a mineral wonderland, a site of scientific interest, and an extraordinary phenomenon worthy of preservation.

Keywords: gypsum, crystallization, mineral growth, anhydrite, Naica mine, nucleation

Thanks to Marilyn Austin for contributing this article.



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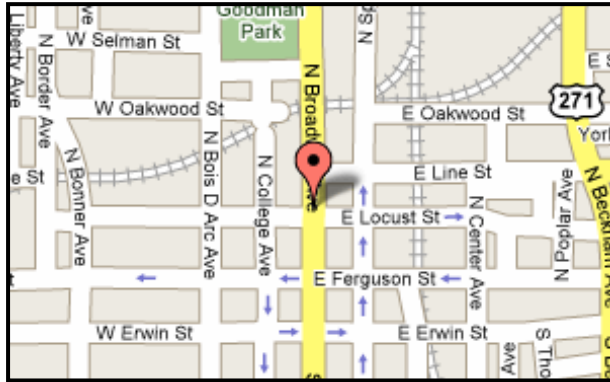
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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.

NOTE: Please send notices of changes of address or to report errors on the mailing list to the Editor, contact info below.

NOTE TO EDITORS

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Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

Is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, fossils and the lapidary arts.

The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

Annual dues are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.50 for juniors.

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